

COME OVER INTO MACEDONIA

Acts 16:1-9

Acts 16:1 Timothy's mother and grandmother taught scriptures to him. Either his father allowed it or he was dead.

Acts 16:2 *Well reported* ... good reputation among believers

Acts 16:3 Timothy considered neither Jew nor Gentile
Legitimize Timothy's status.

Acts 16:4 These men explained rules set down by apostles and leaders in church in Jerusalem

Spiritual issue. Don't place anything or anyone before God.

Moral Issue: No sex outside of marriage union!

Ritual issue: Abstain from eating flesh of animals that had been strangled and from eating (drinking) blood.

Acts 16:5 *Established*: Received strength, solidified. Healed. Made strong in faith.
Teaching doctrine and winning the lost.

Acts 16:6 *Asia*- Roman province of Asia.

Holy Spirit said, Don't preach the word in Asia.

Acts 16:7 *Assayed*: Attempted, tried

Bithynia: north of Asia minor near coastal waters of Black Sea. Highly civilized people.

Suffered them not: Didn't allow them.

Don't go into Bithynia

A preacher under constraint. Burdened, but bound.

Acts 16:8 *Passing by Mysia*: Still walking west. Not stopping to share gospel

Not knowing where supposed to end. Just knowing where NOT supposed to be.

Every opportunity is not God's perfect will for you!

Troas: northeast coast of Aegean Sea, ...Asia Minor on west.. Important center for Roman system of communications

No leading of Holy Spirit.

Acts 16:9 *A man of Macedonia*: angel appearing in form of a man

Every nation has Arch angel...

Come over and evangelize Greeks with us. Entrance of gospel into Europe.

Macedonian call. Turning point in missionary vision of Paul.

Had no idea that God have him evangelize Europe.

Europe became great center of Christianity as result of Paul's obedience to call of God.

Philips: This vision of Paul's is one of those interesting parallels the Holy Spirit introduces into the narrative to show the equality of Paul with Peter. Peter had a

similar, critical vision and his vision sent him to the Gentiles, to a European, to Cornelius the Roman, and it opened the door of the church to the world. Paul's vision sent him into Europe, to the Greeks, and it opened the door of the world to the church. Peter's vision was confirmed immediately afterwards by the appearance of three men. Paul's vision seems to have been confirmed by the presence of a man – Luke.

Applications:

1. It is always right to speak...not always the right time.
People without discernment believe it is always right time to speak.
People with discernment believe it is always right to speak but not always right time. Must rely on Holy Spirit for the timing.
2. God's Will- one Step at a time.
Key: Stay yielded to God and His will. Learn to see whole picture. God's delays are not God's denials.
3. Sometimes God gives a negative command first.
v.6 don't preach in Asia (-ve)
v.7 don't go into Bithynia (-ve)
v.9 come over into Macedonia (+ve)
4. God's Delays are Not God's Denials
In the timetable of God's omnipotence He wanted Macedonia first.
Then Europe.
Ie. Moses
Ie. Joseph
The Holy Spirit's intervention did not refuse Paul's strategy. It only enhanced its effectiveness.
Have to be willing to let God hijack plans.

Acts 16:10 *Immediately*: Instant obedience to will of God.

We: Luke part of Missions team to Europe.

***Endeavoured to go*:** made preparations to go.

Assuredly gathering ...After seeing all sides to issue to bring it to fine point of conclusion.

5. Think! Don't react.

A.T.Robertson; ...*implies a proper use of reason in connection with revelation*

6. Stay until God specifically says "go." Then, assuredly gathering that the Lord has called you, go to the next step in His will.

***Preach*:** announce good news ...evangelize

***Called*:** summoned, invited

***Gospel*:** good news of death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus **Christ**.

***Unto them*:** specific group of people.